EVIDENCE TENDERED BEFORE THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND TOURISM

श्री प्रमोद महाजन (महाराष्ट्र) : उपसभापति महोदया, मैं आपकी अनुमति से भारतीय विमानपतन प्राधिकरण विधेयक 1993 के संबंध में परिवहन और पर्यटन संबंधी स्थायी समिति के समक्ष दिए गए साक्ष्य की एक प्रति सभा पटल पर रखता हूं।

REFERENCES

Demand for release of Indian persons abducted by the Myanmar troops

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Kulabidhu Singh.

SHRI W. KULABIDHU SINGH (Manipur): Madam, yesterday, on the 15th of March, 1994, eight Indians, most of them Manipuris, were abducted by the Myanmar troops from the Molcham village of Chendel district in Manipur. Three police personnel were going on an official duty. Five truck drivers and three police personnel, all these eight persons were abducted from the Molcham village of Chandel district. These police personnel were on official duty. They were having police case files with them. Their identity cards were there. They were having wrist watches and clothes. They are still in confinement with the Burmese Army. Thirty of the Myanmar troops, with sophisticated weapons, came there. Now, an S.O.S. has been sent to the Central Government also.

I urge upon the Government of India, through you, Madam, that some diplomatic measures be taken immediately so as to get released those eight unfortunate persons abducted by the Burmese troops.

SHRI MISA R. GANESAN (Tamil Nadu): It is a serious matter. The Central Government must take up this matter immediately with Myanmar Government.

(*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I would like to thank you... (*Interruptions*) Madam, I am not able to speak. There is so much of noise in the House. I want your protection.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I know there is so much of noise. Order, please.

Demand to ban te books containing derogatory remarks against women

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: I would like to thank you, Madam, for giving me permission to speak. Ever since you have been in the Chair, Madam, you have taken a special interest in issues relating to women. You have a special sympathy. And we appreciate whatever remarks you make from the Chair. And I hope, Madam, on this occasion also, you will be pleased to make some observations. It is only people like the Madam in the Chair who take interest in these issues. I would say all this, Madam, because yet another session has gone, and we have come to the end of the session. Tomorrow and the day-after are the only days left. And we have not yet had a discussion in the House on the problems relating to women.

Madam, what has happened in this specific case is, we discussed the Dunkel Draft and GATT four times. We discussed so many issues. But this House has not the time to discuss issues relating to women. Be that as it may, I do not want to take the time of the House. I want to bring a very specific problem to the notice of the House, through you, Madam, and to the notice of the Government. At the drop of a hat for something or for some small remark in a book, or some remark on somebody's feelings on communal lines and for so many things immediately the Crimi-

nal Procedure Code and the Indian Panel Code are invoked and books are banned and authors are banned and immediate action is taken under the Criminal Procedure Code. We have enacted hundreds of laws relating to crimes against women. All these laws and all these good intentions and all these pious intentions simply remain on the statute books and no action is taken.

Specifically, Madam, available in the country today at a very low price of Rs. 2|- or 3|- are books in the Government-allotted booths and in the Railway stations and even in the corridors of the Supreme Court I have seen hawkers selling these highly provocative books. There are large number of books are entitled as *Nari Shiksha, Grahasth Mein Kaise Rahen, Striyon ke liye kartawya shiksha* books on women and their duties, and this is what these books say. Please bear with me for a minute. I will read only one or two passages. This is from the book *Nari Shiksha* and it says: "There is nothing more sinning and more sinful than woman, blind men, imbeciles, and dwarfs.. because.... they are fickle minded and emotionally reprehensible.... ever since the world was created by Brahma. The defect lies in women only." This is the advice for a better wife from another book. "The wife should realise that she is paying her debt of her pervious life and thus her sins are being destroyed and she is becoming pure. She should patiently bear the beatings of her husband." This is the advice for rape victims. It says that it is in the best interest of the woman that she keeps quiet if she is raped. Then this is the advice for women who want to re-marry: When a woman is given away in marriage in charity (*kanyadan*) by her parents, she does not remain virgin any more. So how can she be offered as charity to anyone else? It is beastliness to remarry her." But can a man remarry? "A man can have a second wife for an issue" in order to have children. This is not just in these books. There are even books on advice to Muslims. This is the kind of advice... (*Interruptions.*)

SHRI M. A. BABY (Kerala): My only point is, this degeneration is a part of the impact of overall liberalisation policy. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA (Bihar): What are you talking about? Don't make a mockery of it. Please be serious. Don't make a mockery of everything... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI M. A. BABY: I am serious.

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: No, you are not. You are talking* (*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: I thought Mr. Baby's intervention was a great thing. I expected something better from him. I do not want to say anything more.

SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR (Uttar Pradesh): We thought Mr. Baby has become Mr. Daddy but he is still Mr. Baby.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: All that I request him is, if you do not have anything to contribute, I am requesting my colleague, please let me be heard at least. Don't make a mockery of what I say... (*Interruptions.*) Madam, he is far too commited ideologically and an intelligent person. I am a woman and you, Madam, as a woman are in the Chair. I think you will at least understand my problem.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Though some of us are not women, we are feminists.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: I expected better from Mr. Baby. That is the tragedy.

SHRI M. A. BABY: Can't we express our views?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, I have not allowed.

Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI M. A. BABY: These are inter-related. If they do not understand, I can only have sympathy for them.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am sorry you have not understood what she was saying. She s not talking about television about which the people are worried that this is liberalisation. She is talking about the books and she has referred to some scriptures about religions. That has referred to some scriptures about religions. That has nothing to do with, liberalisation because religion was much before the liberalisation came into this country.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: I am not entering into a debate with him.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is a serious matter. Please have patience.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: These are the books written by Mufti Abdul Khani and Moulvi Idris Ansari. He says in "Mian Biwi Ke Haqooq (Rights of husbands and wives). These are just as bad as those other books and I am quoting: "Women are the property of men and they can be used any way they wish." He advised the Muslim women to "treat yourself as a slave and accept your husband as your master. Even if you are battered, tolerate it patiently and graciously.? If your husband describes the day as night, you must accept it. Otherwise God and angels will keep on cursing you until you satisfy your husband."

Madam, I am now reading from the news reports. I am not going to keep on reading this. If Members want they can do so. My demand is very simple. These books are freely available in Government-allotted railway station stalls. They are available for Rs. 2 or Rs. 3. They are in the vernacular languages. All the fundamentalists of all religions have joined on this There is a total communal harmony in this country on one issue—rights of women. This is the reason why we now have a rape every 54 minutes, molestation every 26 minutes, kidnapping|abduction every 43 minutes, eve-teasing every 51 minutes, dowry death every 102 minutes and so on. This is what is happening in the country because of this type of attitude. Because they do not have time to discuss serious issues relating to women, my demand to the Government is that the Home Minister should at once look into this and at least ban books like this from being sold in our country. What is the use of putting ideas into the minds of the people about the status of women if such things are allowed to be spread?

I thank you for giving us persistently the opportunity to raise these issues.

SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA (Haryana): (Madam, the Government should ban such books.

श्री एस०एस० अहलुवालिया: महोदया, यह दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण बात है और यह सारी किताबें बेन होनी चाहिए। गृह मंत्री महोदय यहां उपस्थित हैं। कम से कम हाउस को एश्योर करें कि ऐसी किताबें जो कि हमारे संस्कारों को और हमारी संस्कृति को किस तरह से विभ्रांत करने की कोशिश कर रही हैं, इन चीजों को बंद करने की जरूरत है, बेन करने की जरूरत है।

श्रीमती सत्या बहिन (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदया, महिलाओं के सम्मान को ठेस पहुंचाने वाले हर प्रकाशन को प्रतिबंधित होना चाहिए और इसे एक अपराधित कृत्य करार देना चाहिए। इस कार्रवाई में जो भी पाया जाए उसको बंडित किया जाना चाहिए। मैं जयन्ती नटराजन द्वारा उठाए गए अत्यन्त महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दे पर अपनी सहमति व्यक्त करती हूं।

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Assam): Madam, the hon. Member has read out the newspaper report. If such books are sold, those books should be banned and seized by the Home Ministtry.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFIARS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): I will look into the matter.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Home Minister has said he will look into it.

Now, I have something to put before the House. We have the discussion on the Budget, which we started yesterday with the help and cooperation of the House. If the House so agrees we can continue the discussion on the Budget. The Finance Minister is here. The Special Mentions which are before me, we can have in the evening.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI (Tamil Nadu): Madam, Special Mentions are very important. Since they are urgent and important in nature, we are giving them.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I know. You have given your Special Mention.

Yesterday, the House was extremely cooperative. That is why we could finish the business and started the Budget. It had a good reporting in the papers. If the House agrees, we can start the discussion just now and we have Special Mentions at 6'o clock.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: For the Budget discussion we can extend the time in the evening, but we should have Special Mentions now.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have got ten Special Mentions. I cannot have a few now and a few in the evening. If we have, we have all of them together or we do not have any I want the opinion of the House.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: At a particular point of time today, may be at four or five, we can have Special Mentions. What is wrong?

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA (Rajasthan) Madam, I have got a suggestion to make. The people who are making Special Mentions, if they can adhere to a new discipline and take two minutes each, within ten minutes we can complete the Special Mentions and start discussion on the Budget.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If they take two minutes each, I have no problem.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra): Have it in the evening.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If the House so agrees, we can have it in the evening.

I kow that the time is not important, now or in the evening.

आप सदन में किसी वक्त भी बोलेंगे तो आपकी बात की अहमियत उतनी ही रहेगी। सवाल यह है कि मिनिस्टर साहब यहां बैठे हैं, बजट पर डिस्कशन शुरू हो चुका है, अब बजट पर डिस्कशन शुरू करने दीजिए। इस पर टाइम मत लीजिए.... (**व्यवधान**)

मौलाना अबेदुल्ला खान आजमी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मैडम मैंने इजाजत ली है... (**व्यवधान**)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have one yard stick forevery Member.

मौलाना अबेदुल्ला खान आजमी : मैं एक मिनट में अपनी बात कह दूंगा। .... (**व्यवधान**)

उपसभापति : आपको इजाजत दूंगी तो सबको देनी पड़ेगी। आप प्लीज बैठ जाइए। मैं इजाजत नहीं दे रही हूं। आपको दूंगी तो दसों को दूंगी या किसी को नहीं दूंगी। शाम को 5 बजे दे दूंगी। ... (**व्यवधान**) आपके और शास्त्री जी के बीच में मुझे कोई झगड़ा नहीं कराना है।

Now we will start further discussion on the Budget. Dr. M. Aram. Let him complete his speech.

PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal): It is his maiden speech.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I thought you were to complete your speech.. (*Interruptions*).. Dr Aram, it is your maiden speech. We welcome you to do that. But that does not mean that I would not ring the bell. You have to confine yourself to a certain time.. (*Interruptions*)..

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN (Tamil Nadu): It is his maiden speech. Kindly give him the time required, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Never mind. There are other people also. I have to go by the list.

THE BUDGET (GENERAL) 1994-95
Contd.

DR. M. ARAM (Nominated): Madam Deputy Chairman, this is the first time I have the great honour and privilege to address this august House. So, may I place on record my profound sense of gratitude to the revered Rashtrapatiji for nominating me to the Rajya Sabha and also my thanks to the hon. Prime Minister?

Madam, education and rural development have been my twin passions, my life-long preoccupations. So, may I share with hon. Members my thoughts on these two vital dimensions of nation-building with special reference to the Budget for 1994-95

There are special moments in the evolution of a nation when critical developments converge and create a historic situation. I think, the present is one such moment. For the first time since Independence, a majority of the Indian people are today literate—53 per cent. For the first time, our Constitutional obligation for free and compulsory education for all children—Article 45—is nearing fulfilment. For the first time, the Prime Minster has categorically stated that education will have an outlay of 6 per cent GDP by the end of the lecade... (*Interruptions*... for the first time, an upsurge of people's power, particularly women's power, will occur in this country, in all Panchayats and Municipalities, according to the 73rd and 74th Constitutional amendments. Also, Madam, for the first time, the world community and the UN system are carrying on global crusade for "Education for All by 2000 A.D. Tho convergence of all these critical developments provides a historic opportunity for education. Sir, today, expenditure on education is not considered expenditure but as investment. At present 3.6 per cent of the GDP is spent on education. But progressively this will increase to 6 per cent by 2000 A.D. This will be reflected in the Ninth Five-Year Plan. Now, there is a strong political will at the highest level. The budget provision for education in 1994-95 is in the order of Rs. 2,423.61 crores, the highest so far.

The 1986 National Policy on Education and the Programme of Action were revised in 1992 and adopted by Parliament. This serves as an excellent framework for educational development. Both NPE and POA were evolved by a consensual process

The first thrust area is the Literacy Mission. This is a success story. At present 238 Total Literacy Campaigns are going on in the country. What makes the LTC successful? It